

Rare and good News for Wives 3

IN

CITY and COUNTRY

O R,

A Pleasant Vindication

O F T H E

Marry'd Women ;


From the many Failings laid to their Charge, by their Ill humour'd Husbands ; and the ways and means by which they may put a stop to their several Clamours : with an excellent Secret, to prevent the most Chollerick of Husbands from ever laying Hands on his Wife.

Also, how a Wife may get the upper-hand of her Husband, and so far rule the Roast, that she may easily reclaim a bad Husband, to be very good and Obedient to her in all things she can desire.

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Rare and Good News for Wives, in City and Country, &c.

A Wife is a Crown and Ornament to her Husband, (as *St. Paul* tells us) and *Solomon* sets her above the price of Rubies : therefore who would not be proud of a good Wife, or indeed one that is but tolerably so, rather than none at all. Women indeed are not Angels no more than Men, and therefore may be subject to failings sometimes : but what then, I pray you are not Men so likewise ; and therefore should be less Vigorous and severe in censuring their Wives, seeing they stand upon an equal foot that way with them. A Woman is a sociable Creature, not born to be a Slave, and to be tyranniz'd over by a husband ; no she ought to be the delight of his Eyes and be cherished by him as the only Joy of his heart ; had it not been for Women to Multiply and Increase in communicating those ravishing Joys and transports to the Male-Sex, that produces so many fair-offsprings ; what a wild Wilderness would the glorious fabrick of this World have been, over-run with savage Beasts and Bryers, and yet for so great a comfort as a Wife : how do too many Repine as not knowing how to value so inestimable a blessing ; therefore on the behalf of the Female-Sex, let me inform Ignorant Husbands what great advantages they have in a Wife, and let them to rights about their needless Cavills.

First, then to introduce this, let a Husband know that a Wife is like a  set about his Inclosures : She keeps him within Bounds, and any other from Treading over his Ground.

She is like a House, and the Law gives him a Lease of her : so that he need not fear being turned out at Pleasure ; as those are who are Tennants in Tail to Lew'd Women.

If he has the good luck to get her with Child, then she is like a Ship under sail, giving a handsome prospect being compleatly Rigged and Trimmed.

If she be beautiful, she is as pleasant in his Eyes as a curious Garden adorned with lovely Flowers, or like Apples of Gold set in pictures of Silver.

If she be Witty and Ingenious, he has all the World to converse with in her : and may rest upon her Counsell and Advice at seasonable times, and Emergencies, and cannot but answer the end of a helpmeet to him.

These are but feint stroaks of what Wives really are to the comfort and advantage of Husbands : where passion or prejudice do's not so blind them, that they cannot, or will not see their real Interest : by having a Wife to assist them and partake with them, as well in their Adversity as in their Prosperity ; which a good Woman will never fail to do.

But now I come to the Complaints and Objections made by too many Husbands against their Wives, and mostly without Sense or Reason.

O crys one, my Wife will have her Finery, and always be in the Fashion ; not considering whether my Stock or Estate will bear it or not, even in these hard Times. This is but a trivial accusation, for when he courted her to make her his Wife : no doubt but he found her in a Fashionable habit, neat and gentle ; and then it was his time to Consider whether he after could maintain her in the same garb ; which being a neat and spruce Lass, he must needs know she would affect when a Wife not only for her own, but for his Credit : and therefore he must be no other than one of those pitiful Muck-worms, that all day go with Breasts unbutton'd, that can Repine at the neatness of his Wives dress : as if neatness only belonged to Maids, and flatteringly carelessness to wives ; whereas a decent Attire is a mark of good Huswifry, and a loose and Tawdry one a mark of a common strumpet ; Diamonds never shew their lustre to effect, but when they are apparelled in Gold, and then they are admir'd by all People to a neat Attire ; and a becoming dress is the Life of beauty,

and a Man that has a wife ought to take Pleasure to see her fine in Apparel: and indeed we have seen too many that regret the opening of their purse-strings to a wife, have unbottom'd their full baggs to a lavish and imperious harlot, who has returned them nothing but affronts and disdain, for all their kindness; with *Dam her, Sink her, do's he think she will live with such a Dog, Rogue, Pimp as he for ten guinea's a week, no by her troth not she, sink her if she do's*; when perhaps a kind loving wife, do's not expend a tenth part of it on her finery, and yet to this taudry Quean is forc'd to cringe and creep, and give her what she pleases to ask, or all the Fat is in the Fire.

O crys another, my wife loves to be a gadding, and is sometimes handed or coached home by a Beau with a flaring Neckcloth, a Sword by her side, a powder'd Peruke down to his buttocks all mealed over, and his Face so daubed with Snuff, that you would take him at first for a *Molotto* or a *Negro*, just crept out of an *Indico-bagg*: and yet this *Sr. Fopling* must be entertain'd for his *dam d civility*, with the best the house can afford; or there will be no peace for a week after, but this he may smooth up well enough, because it is a happiness to him that he has not Married the contempt of the world: but that he has a wife that claims respect of others as well as of himself, and it is but civil to gratifie a Man who has taken such care of her, as to put her safe again into his hands: who otherwise might have come to some misfortune by the way, and the *Doctors* and *Surgeons* have picked his Pockets ofren times more than a gentile treat could cost him; and here I would have such jealous pates to consider, that a wife seldom thinks ill, till a Husband dreams of it first by trusting her; you lay an obligation upon her, by mistrusting her and going about to restrain her Liberty, you put her upon those little revenges which perhaps she never thought on before; should Men be bound to confess the cheats and shams they put upon their wives, when

they come home at Twelve a clock at night, and pretend they were forced to stay for this Knight or that Lord, of whom they expected to receive money due to them, or when a fawdry mistress in the sight of a wife comes into a Shop and takes up *Silks, Linnen, Ribbons*, or other valuable commodities : because he has taken up with her, and for pretence booked down to some unknown Lady at Court ; how could they stand the test of it, nay when they have been a *caterwauling*, all day and come home with weeping Codpiece, to tell a shum story of straining their backs, by taking a ditch after the *Buck or Hare* : is but a pittiful excuse, and yet too many Men, who have handsome likely wives, and over and enough to satisfie their Apperites do this, and yet a woman might be suspected, perhaps without any Failing.

Another cries out in a jealous mood I have Children indeed to keep, but I fear *Hedg-sparrow* like I have hatched *Cuckoo's Eggs* ; so by their un-easiness and Clamorous discontents. he publishes to the world what is altogether uncertain to them, and for ought we know there may be nothing in it but a bare jealous suspicion upon the surmizing craving of an Idle brain : and here such a one defames a Loving wife, makes her grow peevish and waspish, and himself to be pointed at for a *Cuckold* : when there may really be nothing, yet unless his being conscious of his own dealings with his Neighbours wife, makes him think no woman (*whilst some are so easily gained can be honest*) for your greatest *Whore-masters* are always the most jealous of their wives: for as the Old saying is, the Mother had never sought her Daughter in the Oven, unless she had hid her self there first. But should this suspicion be granted for true, it may perhaps be the husbands fault, in laying that out upon others, that is legally his wive's right, and so coming home impotent : and then like a sneaking Knave to excuse himself, taxing her with Imperfections which often puts a

wife into such a vexation, that she never rests till she has found where the fault lies; and who then can blame a woman to provide an Heir or Heir's to an Estate, which else might go into another Family out of the name; when perhaps she brought a good part of it for a Portion; or by her Care and Industry was mainly Instrumental in getting it, or if she had more favours to spare, then her husband by reason of his Impotency was able to receive; why should he make such a pother about it, he might have had them if he would or could and if they lay on her hands, they were her own to dispence withal, to those that stood in need: why should a Man be like *Aesop's* dog in the manger, who could not eat hay himself, yet snarled at and bit the Ox by the nose: who came hungry from the Field, and wanted it to satisfy his appetite; and this perhaps may be an old Man past his Labour, that has married a buxom young lass that has this whimsie in his head, mistrusting his own abilities; why if it be so, he has no more than he could reasonably expect e'er he married; the end of Marriage is for generation, and what young wife would be so weak as miss the main design of what she so much longed for, and for which she ventur'd so hard, for what woman in the spring-tide of her youth and blooming beauty all a-fire and high mettled, being utterly deluded and frustrated in her expectations; by her Parent's ill matching her for money, endeavour to banish her discontent or else they had been kinder, had they wedded her to her Grave, than to Age and Impotency, diseases and peevishness. Now another great complaint and crime laid to the charge of a wife, is that sometimes she will be sullen and in the pouts, when a Man brings his Tavern companion home to dine or sup with him: so that when he expects to welcome them he shall find all things out of order, the Wife shut up in her chamber and will not come forth, the maid not going forward with, tho' he sent before to have Provision to be made ready; so that he is shamed and disgraced by this unexpected

disappointment. Why all this may be for his good, and the Wife wiser far than he : for those he supposes to be honest Gentlemen, may be a pack of sharpers or Town cheats, under many fair pretences to rook him out of his money or wares : or else a sort of sparks that have wheedled him into a treatment at his house that they might the better have an opportunity to intreague with his wife, which the good woman foreseeing or fearing prudently, avoided the company of such *Rake bells*, saving thereby her Husband's Money and what is more valuable the tryal of her own chastity ; and what if they did huff a little, let them go, such company is not fit for civil entertainment, who come to sup and undermine his Family to ruin it. But now again, an old Man has married a young woman, and find himself to be a Cuckold, why if an old hunk without activity of life and vigour, will in his dotage venture upon a young sprightly damsel, the fault is his own it is better that he would labour to please those senses that are less defective, then to have an inclination to Lechery ; and not go about to make a young woman's life miserable and loathsome to her, where she expect her greatest Felicity and enjoyment ; for let all consider this aright, there is nothing a greater Torment either to Man or woman then a loathed Bed : for where a woman takes a surfeit of a Husband, she can never be well at ease in his company after it. Now again suppose a Man have an errant scold to his wife, as some men will urge when the woman perhaps has all the reason in the world to be clamorous, to find his slights and usage of her, *whom a little before or in wooing time, with vows and protestations to love and cherish with all the tenderness imaginable ;* and this suddain alteration of a husbands temper, cannot but make a woman suspicious : she is neglected and despis'd for some drab inferiour to her in parts and beauty, this is a very great affront, and enough to make a woman open as loud as a pack of hounds upon a full scent, nay if she be naturally so inclined without any Sense or reason, it may be for her healthsake she exercises her tongue, many *Physitians* have prescribed it as a way to stir the humours in the body and thereby the Disease have been remov'd in this then she of her own accord prevents the charge of Doctors and Apothecaries bills, nay further in this she makes a man a *Philosopher*, for she exercises one of his noblest Verrues which is Patience, for which reason *Socrates* married *Xantippe* a scold on purpose, without anger a man could not assail his enemies, no more can some women defend their peculiar rights and priviledges without scolding, by this means they fetch their husbands from their companions, burn the cards, bear the cribbage-board about their ears, make their drabs shun their company, and ring them these peals which their sloth and laziness just y deserves ; Thunder clears the air and thundring woman clears the excess of their husband,

Juno the chiefeſt of all the Goddeſſes was a perfect ſcold, for which reaſon they ſacrificed *Hogs* upon her Alter which make the moſt abominable noiſe in nature : we ſee for the profit of their Eggs, we with patience endure the cackling of our *Hens*, and moſt commonly a wife bring profit or advantage to her Husband, by reclaiming his *Vices* and *Extravagancies* ought the more eaſily to be born withal. Ay but this cauſes oftentimes quarrels, and ſome men to beat their wives : eſpecially coming home drunk, which otherwiſe they would for their own reputation abhor and abominate, ſo that the women to ſave their credit are conſtrained to make pitiful excuſes about their encountering the latch of the door or the like, to father their black Eyes, or bruiz'd Noſes or knuckles on thoſe ſeveral things ; this you will ſay is very hard, and therefore a prudent woman by making uſe of the following receipt, may avoid ſuch ill Conveniencies, viz.

When ſhe perceives her Husband come home Drunk late or in a bad humour, let her fill her mouth with ſumitorie water, and not put it out till ſhe has got him to bed and he is ſnoring aſleep, and the charm will be ſo taking that he ſhall have no power to lay his hands on her : but in this caſe what ever he ſays ſhe muſt not mind him, leaſt ſhe diſſolve the charm, but in the Morning ſhe may have liberty to eaſe her full ſtomach by giving him a gentle curtane lecture or ſo : if he behaves himſelf not ſo well by ſhowing his duty as to prevent it ; and now to cloſe all I come to ſhew women how they may reclaim a bad Husband and make a good one and ſo rule the roaſt, and do as they liſt. If a husband be ill natur'd or fly out into extravagancy, it is the wives buſineſſ gently to ſhew him his folly and reclaim him by meekneſſ and modeſt behaviour ; the patience of wives have often overcome the frowardneſſ of their husbands : they have ſeen their follies in the mirrour of their wives vertues, and the ſhame of being out done by thoſe they term the weaker ſex, has reformed them. when indeed it would be far otherwiſe where women declaim and recriminate in caſes of failures in their husbands ; Men being generally of that temper that are eaſier perſwaded than compell'd, men are harden'd when wives make known their miſdoings in a clamorous manner to the world tho' were it between themſelves : the fear of publick ſhame would paſſ all, peradventure deter from running in to the like errors or occaſion of ſcandal, and ſo if you gain the victory by patience, mildneſſ and ſuffering, it will be laſting and you work a kind of a miracle reclaiming a bad husband and your end is obtained, but if it be done by Insolency and reproach, we cannot aſſure you an entire conqueſt, for upon the firſt advantage he will rally and perhaps in a ruder manner than you expect and quite overſet your ſuppoſed entire victory ; and by that means make you his priſoner at War at diſcretion, obliging you to eaſier terms than you are willing to undergo, tho' you have no appeal if you may from the conditions, the Victor has a right to impoſe on the vanquiſhed, and therefore be but Prudent in the well management of this Affair, and the Day is your own. FINIS.

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